Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 T-03 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 121024 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9075 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO'S CONDITION FOR RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH

REF: ISLAMABAD 1897

CONTINUING MENTION BY BHUTTO-- MOST RECENTLY IN HEYKAL INTERVIEW-- OF DIVISION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES DPTWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH AS ITEM TO BD " SETTLED" IN TALKS WITH MUJIB AS PART OF PRICE OF RECOGNITION, APPEARS TO US INJECT TROUBLESOME NEW ELEMENT INTO ALREADY TROUBLED SITUATION. ASSUMING BHUTTO IS SERIOUS IN DEMANDING RESOLUTION FO ASSETS QUESTION AS PRE-CONDITION FOR RECOGNITION, MEETING WITH MUJIB HE CLAIMS TO SEEK MADE EVEN LESS LIKELY THAN AT PRESENT. EVEN IF BHUTTO'S DEMAND THAT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DISPOSE OF COMPLEX TECHNICAL QUESTION WERE NOT ITSELF UNORTHODOX, INSISTENCE ON ASSETS SEMVEMENT AS PRICSCIN RECOGNITION LIKELY FRIGHTEN BENGALES ALREADY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR LACK OF EXPERTISE IN COMPLEX DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES AND AWARE THAT SITUATION MIGHT PERMIT PAKS EXTORT SETTLEMENT TO GOP'S LIKING. SINCE BHUTTO THINKING IN THIS LINE, BENGALEE INTRANSIGENCE REGARD-ING POWS - THEIR ONLY BARGINING COUNTER - LIKELY TO BE STREN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GTHENED. MOREOVER, BHUTTO'S ADDING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION TO HIS LIST OF PRE-CONDITIONS LIABLE CONFIRM THAT HE IS UNTRUSTWORTHY. BENGALEES MAY ARGUE THAT IF BHUTTO

FALTERS PRE- CONDITIONS FOR RECOGNITION, HE COULD

WELL RATIONALIZE RENEGING ON RECOGNITION AFTER HE HAD BEEN GIVEN HIS MEETING. ALL IN ALL, CONNECTING ASSETS QUESTION TO RECOGNITION APPEARS TO US TO ADD DIFFICULTIES TO PROBLEM OF RESOLVING SOUTH ASIAN IMPASSE.

NEWBERRY

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^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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